



# NEW JERSEY WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

## New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.  
Rutgers University

### NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

**Allentown**  
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.  
**Atlantic City**  
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.  
**New York City**  
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.  
**Philadelphia**  
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

### NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

**Vineland**  
Phone: (856)691-0721  
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.  
**Landisville**  
Phone: (856)697-2273  
Direct Sales Daily  
**Swedesboro**  
Phone: (856)476-0313  
**Hightstown**  
Phone: (609)448-0193  
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

Volume 65

No. 4

Date: April 28, 2003

RUTGERS WEEKLY FORECAST

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

7 am EDT Monday April 28, 2003

Rainfall amounts none through mid-day Tuesday, but a chance of one to two tenths of an inch late Tuesday afternoon.

Winds for spraying becoming southwest 10 to 15 mph today, light southwest tonight, west 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 35 to 45 today, 90 to 100 tonight, and 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, low 40s today, upper 40s tonight, mid 50s Tuesday.

Drying conditions very good today, good most of Tuesday, but possibly turning poor late in the day in scattered locations.

Frost, freeze or dew. Light dew tonight and again Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine 90 today and 70 Tuesday.

There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity has increased somewhat as a result of Saturdays precipitation but amounts in general were under half an inch and will not significantly hamper field activities.

Early season hay cutting will see good drying through most of Tuesday but with some scattered thundershowers possible later Tuesday. Dry conditions should return for Wednesday and Thursday with another chance of showers Friday afternoon.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs could fall to 27 to 31 tonight, and 26 to 30 if skies clear and winds go light on Tuesday night.

Four inch soil temperatures now average in the mid to upper 50s in most locations and will continue to increase slowly over the next couple of days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 5, 2003 to May 11, 2003 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to total near normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am 04/28/03**  
Temperatures averaged below normal. Extremes were 77 degrees at Belvidere, on April 28, 2003 and 32 degrees at Charlotteburg on April 24, 2003.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.62 inches north, 0.82 inches central, and 0.61 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.66 inches at Freehold on April 21, 2003 through April 22, 2003.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 82 percent north, 82 percent central, and 60 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 50 degrees north, 51 degrees central, and 52 degrees south.

### WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 04/28/03

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -										

\*Departure from normal.  
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.  
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 6.2. Field activities included plowing, planting, fertilizing, liming, and harvesting spring vegetables. Many localities received rainfall on April 26, 2003,and temperatures were below normal by midweek. Top soil moisture was rated 84% adequate and 16% surplus. Wet and cool conditions continued to slow growth of wheat, barley, and hay. Small grains and hay condition was rated mostly good across most of the state. In some areas there were reports of rust mite and aphids on hay. Treatment sprays were being applied. Corn planting was delayed in many areas by wet soil conditions. Vegetable producers were tending greenhouses and transplanting cabbages. Eggplant was tended in greenhouses. Asparagus harvest started in most of the state. Sweet corn under plastic was planted in northern counties. Pepper and tomato plants remained in greenhouses in most areas, but planting of tomatoes began in some areas of the south. Lettuce and spinach planting continued in the north and central districts. Pea planting was almost complete in most places. Escarole planting was almost complete. Potato planting continued in the northern and central regions. Strawberry condition was good, with mulch being taken off in the north. In the north, peaches and apples showed good fruit set, and apples started to break bud, while peaches moved to full bloom. Peaches in the central district displayed beautiful and full bloom. Adequate pasture forage was available in some localities.

	SOIL MOISTURE TABLE		
	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	0%
SHORT	0%	0%	0%
ADEQUATE	84%	87%	100%
SURPLUS	16%	13%	0%

	RANGE AND PASTURE		
	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	0%	0%
FAIR	25%	29%	30%
GOOD	68%	66%	70%
EXCELLENT	7%	5%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 28, 2003\*

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**Arrugula** – Will have increasing volume over the next several weeks.

**Asparagus** – With warmer weather, the harvest should build volume over the next several weeks.

**Cilantro** – Over-wintered product is available now and for at least several more weeks. Spring plantings should be available by the third week of May.

**Dandelions** - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring plantings should be available by mid-May.

**Leeks** – Over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

**Parsley** – Over-wintered plain and curly are available already in light volume.

**Radishes** – Some product available now, volume building over the next week or so.

**Spinach** – Over-wintered product is available now and for another several weeks or so. Spring plantings should be available by mid-May.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

**Beets** – Harvest should begin in a couple of weeks.

**Cabbage** – Transplanted later this year due to cold and wet weather early. Won’t be ready until late May or early June.

**Collards** – Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.

**Dill** - Should be available by the third week of May.

**Escarole/Endive** – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

**Lettuce** – Should begin harvesting Romaine and Boston around the third week of May.

**Strawberries** – We grow the same Chandler variety as grown in California, with one exception. Jersey Fresh berries are picked when ripe and can arrive in our region’s markets quicker and fresher than the competition. Our berries have more red interior color than white since they’re physically more mature and ripe. They’re grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size, good interior color, and excellent taste. They’re a better quality and better tasting product than berries from elsewhere.

Due to this winter’s colder weather, the season is running just a bit late. Early harvests are expected to begin the week of May 12, 2003 while the bulk of the crop will be harvested the week of May 19, 2003 through May 26, 2003 with lower volumes to continue through June 6.

**Turnips** – Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

*\*Provided by the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.*